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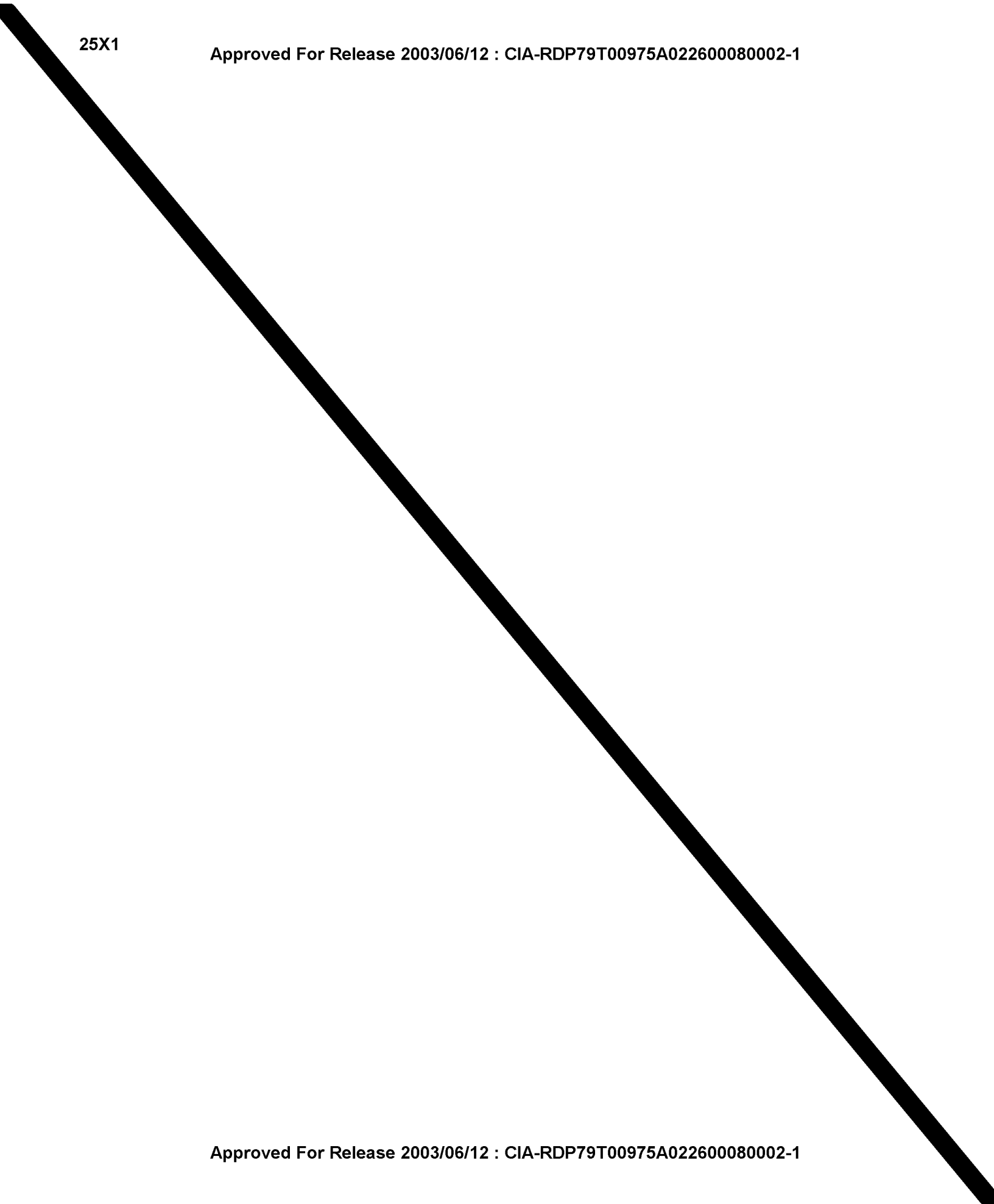

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WEST GERMANY: The Brandt government is moving firmly on two foreign policy issues in an effort to seize the initiative in the election campaign that thus far has not been going its way.

West German and Chinese negotiators in Bonn have agreed that Foreign Minister Scheel should visit China in late October or early November, and have agreed in principle on the contents of his communiqué that will announce the intention of the two countries to establish relations. This reflects the rapid progress Bonn feels has been made in talks between a Foreign Ministry official and a Chinese team including two diplomats from Peking's Embassy in East Berlin.

The Brandt government earlier had hoped to put off normalizing relations with Peking until its detente with Moscow and its negotiations with Pankow were further advanced. The well-publicized visit to Peking last month of the opposition's shadow foreign minister Schroeder forced Brandt's hand, however. Coalition strategists now feel it necessary to move quickly on the China question in order to deprive the Christian Democrats of the advantage in what polls show to be a popular issue.

On another subject, the Brandt cabinet on 23 August declared ratification of last spring's inter-German traffic treaty an "urgent" matter--the first step toward ramming the treaty through the Bundestag before its expected dissolution late next month. Press reports claim that the opposition has already decided not to oppose the treaty. Whatever reservations the more conservative Christian Democrats might have with other parts of the treaty, their party in opposing ratification would have to bear the onus for challenging, and perhaps abrogating, the popular travel improvements made possible by the agreement.

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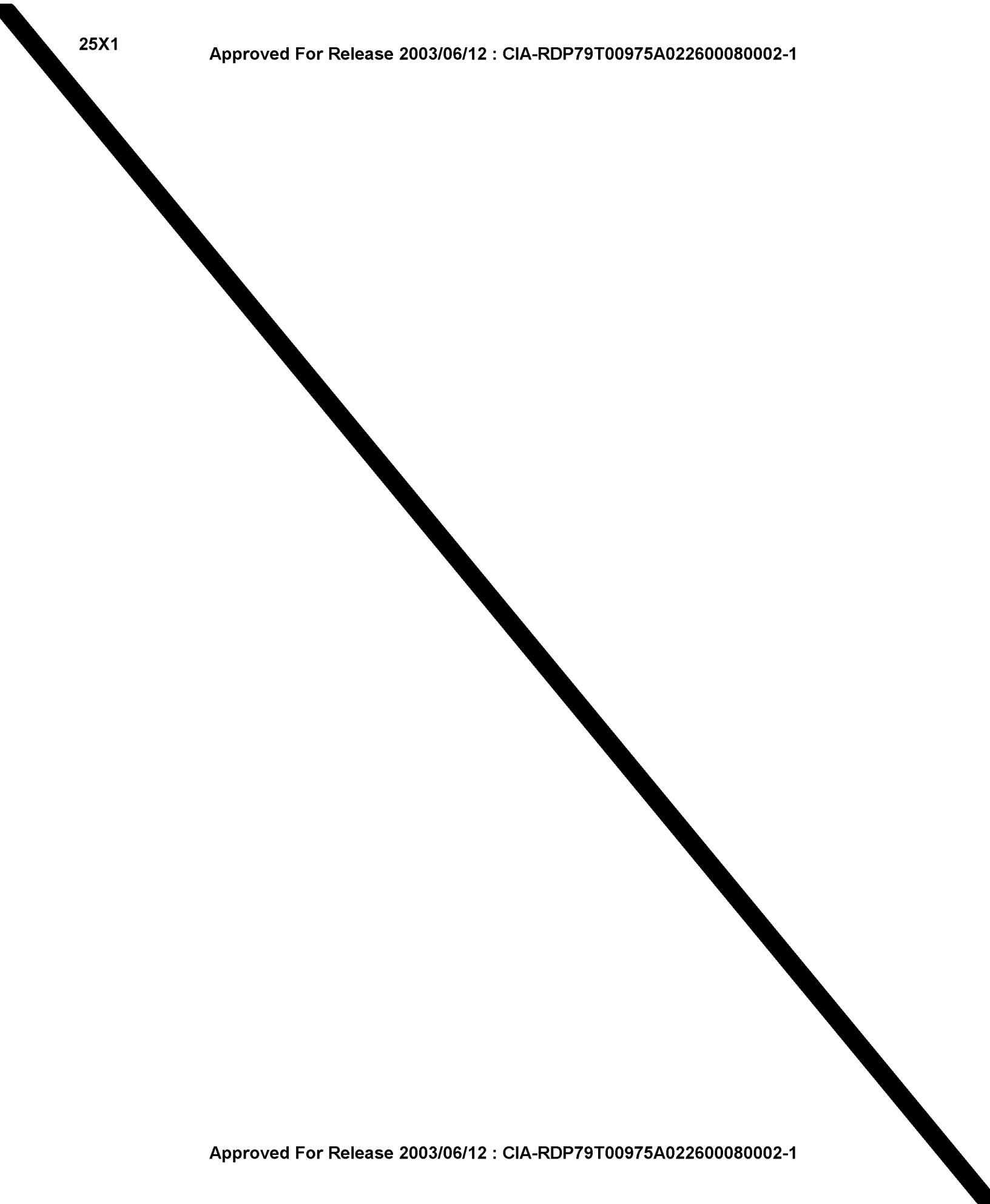

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YEMEN (SANA) - USSR: Yemen (Sana) during the past eight months has reduced the size of the Soviet military advisory mission from several hundred men to 80, [redacted] This reduction has been achieved by not renewing the contracts of Soviet military technicians. Relations between the two countries have deteriorated as a result of Soviet failure to follow through on promises made last year to supply new arms for Sana's largely Soviet-equipped military forces. As an additional irritant, the Yemeni Government is aware that Moscow has expanded its military aid program with Sana's long-standing adversary, Yemen (Aden).

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